

Weekly Optic and Stock Grower.

Fourteenth Year, No 50.

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, MARCH 5, 1898.

\$1.50 a Year.

FERGUSON'S BILL.

THE OPTIC has received from Delegate H. B. Fergusson a copy of his land bill in behalf of the public schools and other public institutions of the Territory. This bill, as all know, is to grant to the Territory such lands for school and other purposes, such amounts of land as have usually been given to states on their admission into the Union.

Mr. Fergusson needs all the help that the Territory can give him to get that measure through. THE OPTIC therefore suggests that the people of the whole Territory should move in this matter, and that as soon as possible. Every commercial body, every Board of Town Trustees, every City Council, every Board of County Commissioners, and all the Territorial and County committees of the different political parties should take separate and individual action in the way of a petition to Congress to pass that measure.

These petitions should not be worded exactly the same, but let every one mention the bill by number, name, H. R. 8216, and state generally that it is requested as a measure of simple justice to New Mexico.

These different petitions should all be sent to Mr. Fergusson at Washington, so that he may use them when the proper point in the matter has arrived.

In speaking of the condemnation of Zola, the Pittsburgh Dispatch says that of course, all this neither proves nor disproves the guilt of Dreyfus. On the original subject the trial leaves the matter about where it was found. But as to the state of affairs in France the revelations of the trial are unique. The world has been surprised at the less majestic prosecutions of the German Emperor. But the Zola trial indicates that France has a description of less majestic peculiar to itself; and that the ruling power that must neither be accused nor criticised is its army, which orders verdicts to be brought in and threatens to leave its country at the mercy of the enemy if its wishes are not law. A nation subject to such arbitrary and irresponsible dictation is in a most deplorable condition.

A TELEGRAM from Pueblo says that report was made of one of the largest cattle deals made in Colorado for many years. It is said Beatty Brothers, of Catlin, south Pueblo, have sold their entire stock of cattle numbering about 20,000 head. These cattle are ranging on property along the various creeks and rivers in southwestern Colorado. The amount of money involved in the deal is said to be \$500,000. The purchasers of the cattle are said to be St. Louis men. Communication could not be had with Beatty Brothers to verify the story of the sale, but it is nevertheless thought to be true.

NEW MEXICO offers ample opportunity for the investment of money, muscle, brain and brawn.

THE RISE OF A STATE.

Only seven years ago, about the time of the Baring panic, says the Denver News, the first part of what is now Oklahoma was thrown open to settlement. Two years later, in the midst of the panic of 1893, the Cherokee Outlet was added and the throngs of settlers who rushed there to get a last slice of Uncle Sam's farms revealed the land hunger of the people.

Oklahoma now embraces about half of what is known on the map as the Indian Territory. The tribes still retain the other half. But the Oklahoma half of the coming state already contains 275,000 people, or more than Montana, Wyoming and Idaho combined. It is assessed for \$32,000,000, real value, \$100,000,000. Last year it produced 20,000,000 bushels of wheat and 120,000 bales of cotton. It was settled during the depression and the people are not in debt.

From Cornell Experiment Station comes a bulletin, warning against putting into the swill of the hogs any dishwater in which is used the ordinary soap powders, usually made of a mixture of hard soap and sal soda or carbonate of soda. Several cases of what seemed at first to be hog cholera, though not all the symptoms were the same, were traced directly to the mixing of such dishwater in the swill. The hogs were poisoned by the excess of free alkali. The women should be careful about what goes into the dishwater that is fed to hogs.

CONGRESSMAN SHAFROTH's plea for the cession of the arid lands of the west to the states and Territories in which they lie, was strong and able, says an exchange, and ought to bring good results. All depends, however, on whether Czar Reed can be induced to interest himself in the matter.

TEXAS is to have a cattle raisers' association. New Mexico cattlemen would do well to attend. The stock interests of the two sections are indissoluble.

A SAN FRANCISCO paper wants the "hen employed as the national bird instead of the eagle." A wise selection, if only the best kind of hen can be named.

THE land of boundless resources, in agriculture, stock raising, mining, health and happiness.

MORE climate and better, to the square inch, in New Mexico, than anywhere else in the world.

NEW MEXICO is the garden spot of the world, and the Las Vegas neighborhood is the asparagus bed.

THE land of sunshine, ninety-nine days out of every hundred.

THE land of pure air, uncontaminated by a single microbe.

NEW MEXICO is in the swim.

THE TREASURY STATEMENT.

The ordinary receipts of the government for January were \$28,795,237 and the expenditures \$36,696,711, leaving a deficit for the month of \$7,901,484.

During the seven expired months of the current fiscal year the revenue amounted to \$187,537,378 and the expenditures to \$239,439,201, showing a deficit of \$51,901,823. The average monthly deficit was \$7,414,546, or about \$500,000 less than the deficit for January, from which it appears that the shortage is increasing instead of decreasing, as was predicted. If the deficit should continue at the average rate only for the remainder of the year it would reach \$89,000,000 for the whole year.

It was confidently stated by the opponents of the restoration of the bimetallic standard during the campaign, that the hard times were caused by insufficient revenues; it seems the Dingley bill is no better than the Wilson bill in this respect. The true cause of hard times is dear money, the product of the gold standard. Nor can relief be found for the industrial classes of the whole country until the cause is removed. All other alleged causes are mere subterfuges. So says the *Farm, Field and Fireside*, one of the most influential agricultural papers of this country.

The Coast Defences.

One-half the number of improved cannons, mortars and emplacements will be located and placed in suitable position ere the expiration of 1898. The Artillery Board is constantly making practical surveys, so far as these relate to the army, and the establishment of adequate military protection of our seaboard is receiving strong endorsement. Meanwhile there is a means of defence from greater physical calamity, and that is the use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which by restoring the tone of the nerves and stomach, invigorates the entire system. It also prevents malarial, kidney and rheumatic ailments, and cures biliousness and constipation. Those who have been cured by it, speak in no uncertain terms as to its effectiveness.

Oran, in Algeria, has a port health officer still in active service at the age of 126 years. His name is Tremouillet. He was born in 1771, was captured by Oran pirates in 1789, and has never left the town since.

A correspondent of the Westminster Gazette calls attention to the curious juxtaposition of two finger posts attached to a public house near Brigend. One reads "To the Asylum," the other "To the Cemetery."

The brass drum is one of the instruments of bands attending regiments of the Servian army. It is fixed on a two-wheeled cart, which is drawn by a large trained dog. The drummer walks behind the cart.

It is said that every thread of a spider's web is made up of about 5,000 separate fibers. If a pound of this thread were required it would occupy 28,000 spiders a full year to furnish it.

SANTA FE NOTES.

Special Correspondence to the Optic.

SANTA FE, Feb. 23, 1898.—It is said to be settled that, as soon as Judge Parker concludes his present term of court at Silver City, a call for a session of the supreme court will be issued. Such session will likely take place next week, the principal business being the naming of a clerk to succeed Clerk Willys, who, it is understood, will resign in order to devote his whole time to private business in El Paso and southern New Mexico. Col. Max Frost claims to have the cinch on the clerkship, as he is strongly supported by the Governor.

From all reports, R. M. Foree has struck a good thing in his new mine, the "Beuton" mine from Wilson Waddingham. He has just encountered a five foot vein of ore that yields \$50 in gold to the ton, and, strange to say, also runs 22 per cent. in copper.

Insurance men still hover about the capital, and they are as busy as bees, yet only a dozen out of the forty-one fire companies engaged in business in New Mexico have so far complied with the law. There are hints at the organization of a pool that will enable fourteen companies to do all the business this year, the idea being that there will certainly come a knock out for the deposit act at next winter's legislative session.

P. V. Coffin is here in behalf of the Municipal Investment company, of Chicago, looking over the Santa Fe valley and taking notes of its attractions as a sugar beet and beet sugar center. Should the citizens of Santa Fe display reasonable enterprise it is reasonably probable that an extensive improvement of this kind will be under way here before the year closes.

The postoffice fight at Socorro is said to be warming up again. The candidates who would like to succeed Postmaster Bahney are Estaban Baca, who is supported by Sol Luna and Gov. Otero; Antonio Meyer, whom ex-Delegate Catron and Editor Williams are said to favor; Dr. Kittrell, who has excellent general backing, and S. C. Meek, a worthy old soldier, whom the Grand Army boys all over the Territory are supporting with might and main.

Some funny stories are afloat here among the politicians touching Tony Cajal's demonstration at Baton on Washington's anniversary. There were 216 Democrats in line, while Tony's awkward squad numbered only 28.

Col. Jo. E. Sheridan, of the Silver City Enterprise, has been all day consulting with Governor Otero on matters of state. From all indications Colonel Sheridan is to be entrusted with important political responsibilities down in Grant county, by the Governor, when the proper time comes. President Will Jack, of the Cattle Sanitary commission, was also a caller at the executive office today and went south with Sheridan during the afternoon. They say the people of Silver City will tender Sudge Parker a hearty welcome in the shape of a banquet on Wednesday night. KNOX.

The Santa Fe city schools closed on Friday last and a private school will open there, tomorrow. Las Vegas, then, is no worse off than some of its neighbors, in having to close its public schools and run for a couple of months on paid tuition. The fault can be laid to the Bateman law.

NEW MEXICO for climate can beat the world.